

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1-38 were examined. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 12, 14, 17-19, 21, 24-26, 28 and 35-38 stand rejected, Claims 2, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29 and 30 are objected to and Claims 8-11 and 31-34 are allowed. In response to the Final Office Action, Claims 1, 12, 19 and 26 are amended, Claims 2, 13, 20, 27 and 35-38 are cancelled and no claims are added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending Claims 1, 3-12, 14-19, 21-26 and 28-34 in view of the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 19, 21, 24-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,987,595 to Yoaz et al. ("Yoaz"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding Claims 1 and 26, Claims 1 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the allowable claim features of objected to Claims 2 and 27, respectively. Accordingly, in view of Applicant's amendments to Claims 1 and 26 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of objected to Claims 2 and 27, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 26 are patentable over Yoaz, as well as the references of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejection of Claims 1 and 26.

Regarding Claims 3, 6 and 7, Claims 3, 6 and 7, based on their dependency from Claim 1, are also patentable over Yoaz, as well as the references of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejection of Claims 3, 6 and 7.

Regarding Claim 28, Claim 28, based on its dependency from Claim 26, is also patentable over Yoaz, as well as the references of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejection of Claim 28.

Regarding Claim 19, Claim 19 is amended to incorporate the allowable claim features of objected to Claim 20. Accordingly, in view of Applicant's amendments to Claim 19 to incorporate the allowable claim features of Claim 20, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 19 is patentable over Yoaz, as well as the references of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejection of Claim 19.

Regarding Claims 21, 24 and 25, Claims 21, 24 and 25, based on their dependency from Claim 19, are also patentable over Yoaz, as well as the references of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejection of Claims 21, 24 and 25.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 12, 14, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,651,125 issued to Witt et al. ("Witt") in view of Yoaz. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding Claim 12, Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the allowable claim features of objected to Claim 13. Accordingly, in view of Applicant's amendment to Claim 12 to incorporate the allowable claim features of objected to Claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 12, as amended, is patentable over the combination of Witt in view of Yoaz. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of amended Claim 12.

Regarding Claims 14, 17 and 18, Claims 14, 17 and 18, based on their dependency from Claim 12, are also patentable over the combination of Witt in view of Yoaz. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 14, 17 and 18.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to Claims 2, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29 and 30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 are also patentable based on their dependency from Claims 1, 12, 19 and 26, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner allow Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 8-11 and 31-34 are allowed. Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for recognizing the allowability of Claims 8-11 and 31-34, as well as the allowability of Claims 2, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29 and 30 if rewritten in independent format.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Claims 1, 3-12, 14-19, 21-26 and 28-34 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

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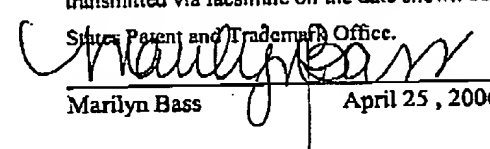
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


Marilyn Bass

April 25, 2006